**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-63. Canceled.

64. (**Currently Amended**) A method for treating a patient suffering from pain that is sensitive to an opioid comprising orally administering such opioid in a controlled release pharmaceutical composition, comprising

~~a~~ **an erodible** matrix composition comprising **a mixture of**:

a) a polymer or a mixture of polymers,

b) an opioid, and optionally,

c) one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients,

wherein the **erodible** matrix composition **comprises a polyethylene glycol, a polyethylene oxide and/or a block copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, and** does not comprise polyethylene glycol 2000 monostearate or polyethylene glycol 400 monostearate,

the matrix composition being provided with a **single** coating that is substantially insoluble in and impermeable to aqueous media, the coating comprising one or more polymers selected from the group consisting of ethylcellulose, cellulose acetate, polyamide, polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene, polyurethane, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl chloride, silicone rubber, latex, polyhydroxybutyrate, polyhydroxyvalerate, teflon, polylactic acid or polyglycolic acid and copolymers thereof, ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA), styrene-butadienestyrene (SBS) and styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS),

the coating having two openings and exposing at least one surface of the matrix, thereby allowing controlled release of said opioid by erosion of said matrix surface,

**wherein the composition exhibits a zero order release profile and wherein about 75% w/w of the opioid is released from the composition within 4-10 hours when tested in a Dissolution Test in accordance with USP 24, NF 19, (711), Dissolution, apparatus 2, equipped with a paddle, with or without sinkers**.

65. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the amount of opioid on a daily basis sufficient to treat the pain in the patient is less than the amount of opioid sufficient to treat the pain to a similar degree by use of an immediate release composition.

66. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65, wherein the degree of pain treatment is measured by use of a 4 point verbal rating scale (VRSpi) where 0=none pain, 1=slight pain, 2=moderate pain, and 3=severe pain.

67. – 68. (Canceled)

69. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the mean plasma concentration 8 hours after oral administration is at least 40% of the mean maximal concentration obtained by the dose.

70. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the mean plasma concentration 10 hours after oral administration is at least 35% of the mean maximal concentration obtained by the dose.

71. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the mean plasma concentration 12 hours after oral administration is at least 25% of the mean maximal concentration obtained by the dose.

72. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the mean plasma concentration after oral administration of a single dose is at least 33% of the mean maximal concentration over at least 15 hours.

73. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the mean plasma concentration after oral administration of a single dose is at least 50% of the mean maximal concentration over at least 6 hours.

74. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the mean plasma concentration after oral administration of a single dose is at least 75% of the mean maximal concentration over at least 3 hours.

75. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the mean plasma concentration 12 hours after oral administration of a single dose is at least 20% of the mean

maximal concentration, the mean plasma concentration 18 hours after oral administration is at least 20% of the mean maximal concentration, and the mean plasma concentration 24 hours after oral administration is at least 20% of the mean maximal concentration.

76. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the method comprises administering the controlled release pharmaceutical composition once or twice daily.

77. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 76, wherein the method comprises administering the controlled release pharmaceutical composition once daily.

78. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the controlled release composition comprises 15 to 300 mg of morphine sulphate.

79. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein said pain is chronic pain.

Claims 80 – 82 (**Canceled**)

83. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~composition~~ **method** according to claim ~~82~~ **64**, wherein the polyethylene glycol, polyethylene oxide or block copolymer has a molecular weight selected from the group consisting of about 20,000 daltons to about 700,000 daltons, about 20,000 to about 600,000 daltons, about 35,000 to about 500,000 daltons, about 35,000 to about 400,000 daltons, about 35,000 to about 300,000 daltons and about 50,000 to about 300,000 daltons.

84. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~composition~~ **method** according to claim 83, wherein the polyethylene glycol, polyethylene oxide or block copolymer has a molecular weight selected from the group consisting of about 35,000 daltons, about 50,000 daltons, about 75,000 daltons, about 100,000 daltons, about 150,000 daltons, about 200,000 daltons, about 250,000 daltons, about 300,000 daltons and about 400,000 daltons.

85. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 84, wherein the polyethylene oxide in the matrix composition has a molecular weight of at least 100,000 daltons.

86. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 84, wherein the polyethylene oxide in the matrix composition has a molecular weight at most of 300,000 daltons.

87. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 84, wherein the matrix composition comprises at least one of polyethylene oxide 200,000 NF and/or polyethylene oxide 200,000 LF.

88. **(Currently Amended)** A ~~composition~~ **method** according to claim 64, wherein the opioid is selected from the group consisting of alfentanil, allylprodine, alphaprodine, aniloridine, benzylmorphine, bezitramide, buprenorphine, butophanol, clonitazene, codeine, cyclazocine, desomorphine, dextromoramide, dezocine, diapromide, dihydrocodeine, dihydromorphine, dimenoxadol, dimephetanol, dimethylthiambutene, dioxaphetyl butyrate, dipipanone, eptazocine, ethoheptazine, ethylmethylthiambutene, ethylmorphine, etonitazene, fentanyl, heroin, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, hydroxypethidine, isomethadone, dextropropoxyphene, ketobemidone, levallorphan, levorphanol, levophenacylmorphan, lofentanil, meperidine, meptazinol, metazocine, methadone, metopon, morphine, morphine 6-glucuronide, morphine 3-glucuronide, myrophine, nalbuphine, narccine, nicomorphine, norlevorphanol, normethadone, nalorphine, normorphine, norpipanone, opium, oxycodone, oxymorphone, papaveretum, pentazocine, phenadoxone, phenomorphan, phenazocine, phenoperidine, piminodine, piritramide, propheptazine, promedol, properidine, propiram, propoxyphene, sufentanil, tilidine, tramadol, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, complexes, solvates or anhydrates thereof, and mixtures thereof.